
Subject: Re: Dual Core Apple "MacBook", and RSI's Mac Intel plans
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Wed, 11 Jan 2006 13:33:49 GMT

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Man, you really can't wait, huh? The words his Steveness spoke yesterday are still echoing through the room and you are demanding applications. :-) (My understanding from the blogs I read was that not even Apple has fully converted all their apps.)

Cheers,
Haje

"JD Smith" <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> wrote in message
news:pan.2006.01.10.19.59.41.908085@as.arizona.edu...

>
> Apple just announced a new Intel-based, dual core "MacBook", using the
> newly announced "Core Duo" chip. Check it out here:
>
> <http://www.apple.com/macbookpro/>
>
> This looks like the ultimate IDL mobile workstation. Now, the
> question is, will IDL 6.3 be offered as a Universal Binary for the
> Mac? Since we know RSI never really put much into Altivec (if anything at
> all), it would seem to me that a port to Intel for Mac would be as simple
> as clicking the "Compile Universal Binary" box. Given how many Powerbooks
> I see floating around at conferences, I think they should strongly
> consider ticking that box. This machine will sell.
>
> Since they are compiling IDL with GCC, we should see similar
> performance as available on similarly-equipped Linux systems (it's the
> same exact compiler). Since GCC was such a woeful underperformer for
> PowerPC, the speed advantages would be multiply compounded. I would
> guess the new MacBook would offer IDL performance up to 5 times as
> fast as the current Powerbook G4 (for problem sizes which can take
> advantage of both cores). All that, and a shiny metal case too (not
> to mention the built-in video-cam).
>
> Anyone have the inside scoop?
>
> JD
>

Subject: Re: Dual Core Apple "MacBook", and RSI's Mac Intel plans
Posted by [Phony Account](#) on Wed, 11 Jan 2006 16:07:11 GMT

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I am thinking that Apple on Intel may be a demise of Linux.

I for one, a linux and wintel user, would love to switch to Apple and have the best of linux and the decent of mictel (microsoft+intel). If the hardware price comes down some, a part of the linux folks may switch to apple. Apple may then see a surge in computer, scientific and engineering applications that partially drove linux forward.

I was actually thinking of asking my IS department whether they would tolerate and Apple Workstation :-)

my 2 cents,

Mirko

Subject: Re: Dual Core Apple "MacBook", and RSI's Mac Intel plans
Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Wed, 11 Jan 2006 19:05:08 GMT

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In article <pan.2006.01.10.19.59.41.908085@as.arizona.edu>,
JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> wrote:

- > Apple just announced a new Intel-based, dual core "MacBook", using the
- > newly announced "Core Duo" chip. Check it out here:
- >
- > <http://www.apple.com/macbookpro/>
- >
- > Anyone have the inside scoop?
- >
- > JD

JD, our sysadmin queried RSI about this. Their response is (I paraphrase): Not in 6.3, which is due this summer. Maybe in 2007.

I am going to try to get a demo Intel iMac so we can see if IDL runs under emulation, and if so, what the performance is.

Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: Dual Core Apple "MacBook", and RSI's Mac Intel plans
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Wed, 11 Jan 2006 23:06:58 GMT

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On Wed, 11 Jan 2006 08:33:49 -0500, Haje Korth wrote:

- > Man, you really can't wait,huh? The words his Steveness spoke yesterday are
- > still echoing through the room and you are demanding applications. :-) (My
- > understanding from the blogs I read was that not even Apple has fully
- > converted all their apps.)

Well, whether I wait can or not, I'll have to, given my 1 yr old PB sitting on the desk. In terms of recommending to colleagues, I think "sometime in 2007" is a very poor answer. Had they poured effort into optimizing IDL for PowerPC with Altivec, then I could understand it, and cut them some slack. Given that they did not (after making much ado about nothing), it is likely a relatively easy port, so waiting over a year to do it seems a bit... how shall we say... weak?

Scientists types love Macs, with their decent GUI, and all the BSD Unix trimmings. Those same scientists hate IDL's performance on the Mac, which is painfully slow, even compared to other laptops (i.e. my 4 yr old PIII laptop was faster at IDL than my current PB). This 2-processor MacBook offers the perfect solution. It really won't be a good choice to wait more than a year from the time they are available to first support them.

That said, RSI probably heard about the MacBook yesterday with everyone else, so perhaps are revising that strategy now. I suppose it all depends on whether the PPC IDL can run under Rosetta.

JD

Subject: Re: Dual Core Apple "MacBook", and RSI's Mac Intel plans
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Thu, 12 Jan 2006 10:17:29 GMT
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JD Smith wrote:

- > On Wed, 11 Jan 2006 08:33:49 -0500, Haje Korth wrote:
- >
- >> Man, you really can't wait,huh? The words his Steveness spoke yesterday are
- >> still echoing through the room and you are demanding applications. :-) (My
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> good choice to wait more than a year from the time they are available
> to first support them.
>
> That said, RSI probably heard about the MacBook yesterday with
> everyone else, so perhaps are revising that strategy now. I suppose
> it all depends on whether the PPC IDL can run under Rosetta.
>
> JD

Given that RSI won't port IDL/Solaris for Solaris x86, or IDL/Linux for Linux on Itanium, I wouldn't hold my breath waiting for an them to do an "easy port" to MacOS X on Intel.

--

Nigel Wade, System Administrator, Space Plasma Physics Group,
University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH, UK

E-mail : nmw@ion.le.ac.uk

Phone : +44 (0)116 2523548, Fax : +44 (0)116 2523555

Subject: Re: Dual Core Apple "MacBook", and RSI's Mac Intel plans
Posted by [Matt Feinstein](#) on Thu, 12 Jan 2006 14:18:35 GMT
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On 11 Jan 2006 08:07:11 -0800, phaccount@nycap.rr.com wrote:

> I am thinking that Apple on Intel may be a demise of Linux.
>
> I for one, a linux and wintel user, would love to switch to Apple and
> have the best of linux and the decent of mictel (microsoft+intel). If
> the hardware price comes down some, a part of the linux folks may
> switch to apple. Apple may then see a surge in computer, scientific
> and engineering applications that partially drove linux forward.

The killer option is a Windows/OS X dual-boot workstation, but it looks like that won't happen for a while. The various items I've read are somewhat unclear, but, apparently, dual-boot XP+OS X is not a possibility with the new macs because of BIOS/firmware issues. However Vista+OS X will be possible and, IMO, poses a major threat to linux.

Matt Feinstein

--

There is no virtue in believing something that can be proved to be true.

Subject: Re: Dual Core Apple "MacBook", and RSI's Mac Intel plans
Posted by [Richard French](#) on Fri, 13 Jan 2006 00:55:09 GMT

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- >
- > Given that RSI won't port IDL/Solaris for Solaris x86, or IDL/Linux for Linux
- > on
- > Itanium, I wouldn't hold my breath waiting for an them to do an "easy port" to
- > MacOS X on Intel.

I agree with JD that 'sometime in 2007' is a poor answer. For those of us who have been waiting for years for a fast OSX laptop, the new machines look great, but they won't do us any good if IDL won't run on it. Perhaps all of us using Macs in this newsgroup should write to RSI and ask them to speed things along. They might find it easier to port than to put up with all of the complaints.

Dick French

Subject: Re: Dual Core Apple "MacBook", and RSI's Mac Intel plans
Posted by [Ricardo Bugalho](#) on Fri, 13 Jan 2006 15:55:32 GMT

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Hello,

a couple of points, depending on your interest:

- Mac OS X for Intel won't emulate Altivec. So, if IDL makes any use of it, IDL might not run. OTOH, unlike SSE, Altivec never supported double precision so it's likely IDL won't use it.

- If you don't care about Mac OS X and just want Apple's tradicional quality in laptops, you might be able to install Linux on it.

On Wed, 2006-01-11 at 13:05 -0600, Kenneth Bowman wrote:

- > I am going to try to get a demo Intel iMac so we can see if IDL runs under
- > emulation, and if so, what the performance is.

>

> Ken Bowman
